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CLARK BROS. FARMING

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

After reading some material, and attending many different hearings regarding this Bay-Delta Program, I felt it was in my best interest to submit my opinions on the matter. I am a second-generation partner in a family farm and land leveling business. We own and farm ground in the Westlands Water District, as well as in a private district that is only able to use flood water in heavy precipitation years. We are also able to see a larger view of the water issues from our land leveling business.

I have many business and personal concerns with the plan that has been submitted. Approximately one year ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with Senator Jim Costa, and one of the issues we discussed was the CALFED program. At that time, there were three proposed options, 1, 2, and 3. Senator Costa, other Agriculturists in the room and myself felt that Plan 3 was the best for all the interests of California. It provided a way to clean out the Delta on low precipitation years, and retain excess water on heavy precipitation years. Without both of these aspects, all parties will loose in the end. The issues of managing water well, do not only benefit Agriculture, rather they are essential to everything. Issues such as population growth, increasing the environmental restoration projects in the state, as well as providing a safe food supply for the world will require a lot more water. Plan 3 had us headed in the right direction. I now understand that Plan 3 is no longer an option. Plans 1 and 2 offer no storage, and poor plans for cleaning out the Delta. If a water storage plan is not created, the ground water levels everywhere will be severely depleted.

In regards to water consumption by Agriculture. Due to the broad picture I am allowed to see, I become very frustrated. Water Districts as well as municipalities are forced to over consume their water needs, thereby guaranteeing a moderate supply the following year. A Water District is given an allocation by the Bureau of Reclamation, that allocation must be used by the end of the year, or there are penalties, as well as complete loss of that water. There is not a system of storage or water banking that could be carried over into the following year. As a farmer, I end up paying these costs. For example, I ended up with excess water at the end of 1998. That water was taken away from me, not able to be used in the 1999 season, and I had to pay a total of \$40,000.00 for not being able to use the water in the proper season. I do not feel this promotes conservation. Water banking, carryover or credits need to be available and useable.

Finally, I would like to touch on the issue of quality of life in an Agriculture area. It is my understanding that you were not able to put value on this factor in your formula. There is a large value on this very issue. I went high school in Monterey, with girls from all over the world. There was never a weekend that someone did not want to go to my house. The majority of these girls had never been out of Los Angeles, or out of their high rise home in

Hong Kong. It was a complete cultural experience for them to come to the farm and spend the weekend riding horses, tramping cotton, learning to drive a stick shift in open spaces and so many other experiences. As I look back now, I wonder how they could have ever thought not being able go out to meals, the movies or the mall could possibly have been fun, but the interesting thing is that they still talk about the experience. Many of my adult friends that live in Fresno, (not far from Agriculture) ask all the time to come work for the weekend on the farm, or at least come spend some time on the farm. I do not know how you value things like this in a number, but I definitely do not want to have less of an ability to share this experience with friends.

California's water issues must be solved soon and with much consideration. I hope the CALFED Program will reconsider their proposal. They need to ensure storage as well as a clean Delta. Hopefully we will get there before too much damage is done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah C. Woolf', written in a cursive style.

Sarah C. Woolf
Manager Clark Bros. Farming